

NCA  
VOC FOR IOP/FN  
BACKGROUND NO. 5-5760  
DONNA WOOLF

APRIL 25, 1978

## SOMALI CLAIMS TO NORTHEAST KENYA

ANNCR

DESPITE ITS DEFEAT IN THE OGADEN WAR, SOMALIA HAS NOT RENOUNCED ITS AMBITIONS FOR A GREATER SOMALI NATION. AND, AS A RESULT, KENYAN OFFICIALS FEAR THAT KENYA'S NORTHEASTERN TERRITORY, INHABITED BY ETHNIC SOMALIS, COULD SUFFER THE SAME FATE AS THE OGADEN. VOA'S DONNA WOOLF HAS THIS BACKGROUND REPORT.

VOICE:

THE NATIONAL FLAG OF SOMALIA HAS A 5-POINTED STAR. EACH POINT REPRESENTS AN AREA INHABITED BY SOMALI ETHNICS. TWO OF THOSE POINTS--FORMER BRITISH AND ITALIAN SOMALILAND--ARE UNDER SOMALI CONTROL. THE OTHER THREE REPRESENT THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI, THE OGADEN REGION OF ETHIOPIA, AND THE NORTHEAST REGION OF KENYA.

SINCE INDEPENDENCE IN 1960, SOMALI MAPS HAVE SHOWN THE NORTHERN THIRD OF KENYA AS PART OF SOMALI TERRITORY. SIXTY PERCENT OF THE 400,000 PEOPLE WHO INHABIT THAT ARRID, DESOLATE REGION IN KENYA ARE ETHNIC SOMALIS.

UNDER BRITISH RULE, THE AREA WAS KNOWN AS THE NORTHERN FRONTIER DISTRICT AND WAS ADMINISTERED SEPARATELY BY THE BRITISH. THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT CLAIMS THAT THE ARBITRARY DRAWING OF COLONIAL BOUNDARIES WRONGLY MADE THE TERRITORY PART OF KENYA. AND, FOR THIS REASON, IT SAYS, SOVEREIGNTY OVER AREAS OF NORTHEASTERN KENYA SHOULD BE OPEN TO NEGOTIATION.

BITTER FIGHTING BETWEEN KENYA AND SOMALIA TOOK PLACE IN THE NORTHEAST AREA IN THE MID-SIXTIES. HOSTILITIES CEASED IN 1967 WHEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SIGNED AN AGREEMENT TO END THE GUERRILLA WAR. A MAJOR INCIDENT IN KENYA'S NORTHEASTERN BORDER

REGION OCCURRED IN JUNE OF LAST YEAR WHEN KENYA SAID THREE THOUSAND SOMALI TROOPS ATTACKED A KENYAN POLICE POST. SOMALIA DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT AND SUGGESTED THE CLASH RESULTED FROM ETHNIC SOMALI REBELS MANEUVERING NEAR THE BORDER WHILE FIGHTING ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT FORCES. SOON AFTER, KENYA AND SOMALIA SET-UP A JOINT COMMISSION TO STUDY BORDER ISSUES AND TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NAIROBI AND MOGADISHU GOVERNMENTS.

THE KENYAN GOVERNMENT IS DISTURBED BY THE HEAVY AMOUNTS OF SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT USED BY BOTH SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA DURING THE OGADEN WAR. AS A RESULT, A HIGH LEVEL KENYAN DELEGATION WAS SENT TO WASHINGTON TO PRESS FOR MORE AMERICAN ARMS TO DEFEND KENYA AGAINST SOMALI INCURSIONS. PRESIDENT CARTER ASSURED THE KENYANS THAT DELIVERY OF TWELVE ADVANCED JET FIGHTERS WOULD BE EXPEDITED AND THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPLY ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

(OPT) CORRESPONDENT HENRY BRADSHER OF THE WASHINGTON STAR NOTES THAT KENYA MAINTAINS A RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF ARMED FORCES AND TRIES TO USE ITS LIMITED RESOURCES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RATHER THAN ON THE PURCHASE OF WEAPONS. ANY CHANGE IN THIS POLICY, HE SAYS, COULD DISRUPT THE KENYAN ECONOMY, TRIGGERING WIDESPREAD SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHANGES. (END OPT)

MEANWHILE, NEWS REPORTS FROM NAIROBI SAY THAT KENYA IS FEELING THE EFFECTS OF ITS COOLER RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING TANZANIA AND UGANDA. THIS IS SAID TO BE DUE IN PART TO THE COLLAPSE OF THE EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY AND KENYA'S CONTINUING CONCERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN UGANDA.